

# Resolution 7: Dependable and Inclusive Supply of Pharmaceutical and Essential Non-Prescription Supplies

**Abstract:** This resolution supports the creation of a pilot program through Cornell Health’s pharmacy for multi-unit vending machines carrying essential no-prescription medicine including emergency contraceptive to increase health accessibility and health equity on campus.

**Sponsored by:** Kate Carter-Cram, Michelle Heeney, Josh Washington, Planned Parenthood Generation Action at Cornell, et al.

**Reviewed by:** Executive Committee, 02/09/2023

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**Whereas,** Cornell University has long been a pioneer in advancing women’s educational opportunities, admitting its first female student in 1870, a mere five years after the University’s founding and nearly a century before some of our Ivy League peers like Dartmouth, Yale, and Columbia;

**Whereas,** Cornell University has also historically been a trailblazer in the study of women’s issues and gender justice, celebrating the 50th anniversary of its Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department last academic year and proudly being the first school in the Ivy League to establish such a program;

**Whereas,** with the US Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson’s Women’s Health Organization* last year, reproductive rights and reproductive health access have been placed in greater jeopardy nationwide, with many Cornell community members feeling that the need for safe and secure access to contraceptives has increased;

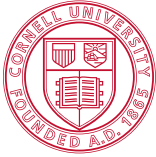
**Whereas,** unplanned and unexpected pregnancy can place a significant burden on students’ lives, and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy published a study finding as high as 61 percent of pregnant female students dropped out of their academic program<sup>1</sup>;

**Whereas,** given the recent legislative action and judicial rulings throughout the United States, this moment necessitates bold and decisive action to preserve reproductive health access at all levels, in all communities, for all people, without shame, danger, fear, or inequities;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.communitycollegereview.com/blog/is-contraception-the-answer-for-college-completion-rates#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20report%20by,end%20up%20finishing%20their%20degrees>

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29 **Whereas**, equal access to essential healthcare products and services, such as over-the-counter  
30 medicines (non-prescription), is a fundamental right of all students regardless of circumstance,  
31 identity, or physical location;

32 **Whereas**, Cornell Health has served as a beacon in an otherwise isolated region for students to  
33 be treated for various concerns regardless of socioeconomic status, gender identity, expression,  
34 race, and other demographic factors;

35 **Whereas**, many residents of the Cornell community live far from the Cornell Health pharmacy  
36 on Ho Plaza, with a walk from Robert Purcell Community Center on North Campus taking  
37 approximately 20 minutes both ways and a walk from the Vet School on East Campus taking  
38 approximately 25 minutes both ways<sup>2</sup>;

39 **Whereas**, the Cornell Health pharmacy operates under 50 hours a week, limited to only common  
40 business hours six days a week<sup>3</sup>;

41 **Whereas**, the medical needs of our community members do not cease with the conclusion of the  
42 business day;

43 **Whereas**, the nearest retailers to Cornell's campus for Plan B One-Step (name brand) are CVS  
44 Pharmacy, Walgreens, and Target<sup>4</sup>, all of which are more than a 30-minute walk away one way  
45 from central campus<sup>5</sup>;

46 **Whereas**, over-the-counter medications, including contraceptives, frequently force students to  
47 incur large purchasing costs as well as often travel costs paid in time, money, and health in order  
48 to find such medication in proximity to Cornell's campus;

49 **Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA), an undergraduate student  
50 organization registered with Cornell University Campus Groups (also affiliated with Planned  
51 Parenthood), conducted independent research over the last semester on interests and engagement  
52 around an emergency contraceptive vending machine that would "discreetly", and "accessibly"  
53 offer Plan B<sup>6</sup>, with all research referenced included voluntarily in Appendix A;

54 **Whereas**, PPGA's Fall 2022 research used a Qualtrics survey with over seven hundred (700)  
55 voluntary respondents across the Cornell Community<sup>7</sup>;

56 **Whereas**, the survey conducted among Cornell University students revealed a significant need  
57 for emergency contraception access on campus, with 53.3% respondents answering that they  
58 have accessed emergency contraception for themselves or others in the past and an

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<sup>2</sup> Google Maps

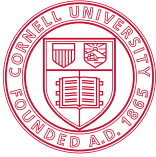
<sup>3</sup> <https://health.cornell.edu/get-care/hours>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.planbonestep.com/where-to-buy-plan-b/>

<sup>5</sup> Google Maps

<sup>6</sup> Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

<sup>7</sup> Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research



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59 overwhelming 86.8% of respondents answering that they “strongly agree” that they will need to  
60 access emergency contraceptives in the future<sup>8</sup>;

61 **Whereas**, current access to emergency contraception on campus is limited due to pharmacy  
62 operating hours, with only 16.9% of respondents accessing contraceptives through Cornell  
63 Health and the majority of respondents, 45.5%, being forced to rely on off-campus pharmacies  
64 that offer less affordable and potentially cost-prohibitive options<sup>9</sup>;

65 **Whereas**, PPGA’s survey shows a high demand for the expansion of campus-based access to  
66 emergency contraception, with 66.5% of respondents feeling “very comfortable” accessing  
67 contraceptives from a vending machine operated by Cornell Health<sup>10</sup>;

68 **Whereas**, this model has proven successful across other universities with Shippensburg  
69 University in Pennsylvania became the first colleges in the United States to provide students with  
70 equal access to contraceptives in a vending machine format in 2012<sup>11</sup>;

71 **Whereas**, the Purdue University pharmacy funds and supplies a vending machine that dispenses  
72 common and basic over-the-counter medications such as pain relief, fever reducers, allergy  
73 relief, cold/cough/flu medicine, gastrointestinal medicine, as well as contraceptives and other  
74 sexual wellness products<sup>12</sup>;

75 **Whereas**, peer institutions, including University of California Davis<sup>13</sup>, Boston University<sup>14</sup>,  
76 University of Florida<sup>15</sup>, George Washington University<sup>16</sup>, Brandeis University<sup>17</sup>, and many  
77 more<sup>18</sup>, have already launched similar programs in their respective campus vending machines  
78 across the country, including in states with varying reproductive healthcare access;

79 **Whereas**, Ivy League peer institutes like Dartmouth<sup>19</sup>, Yale<sup>20</sup>, and Columbia<sup>21</sup> who once  
80 followed Cornell’s leadership on issues of gender justice, all of whom were nearly a century

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<sup>8</sup> Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

<sup>9</sup> Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

<sup>10</sup> Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/28/us/plan-b-vending-machine.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/rx/faq.php>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2017/04/21/health/davis-plan-b-machine-trnd/index.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2022/new-plan-b-vending-machine-in-gsu/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/us/university-florida-student-government-oks-plan-b-vending-machines-morning-pill>

<sup>16</sup>

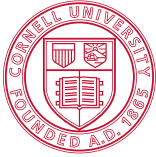
<sup>17</sup> <https://www.boston25news.com/news/plan-b-vending-machine-opens-at-brandeis-university/941130248/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/07/31/metro/after-roe-v-wade-more-college-students-want-contraception-vending-machines-campus/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://students.dartmouth.edu/health-service/pharmacy/vending-pharmacy-dicks-house>

<sup>20</sup> <https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2018/11/29/ycc-launches-plan-b-vending-machine/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://columbiachronicle.com/437de6c1-35ae-5c44-abfb-09645ba3a1ae>



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81 behind Cornell in admitting non-male students<sup>22</sup>, have now outpaced our campus on reproductive  
82 healthcare access;

83 **Whereas**, Cornell has existing business relations with multiple vending machine firms with  
84 operation in the Ithaca area, specifically having “nearly 300 vending machines throughout  
85 campus” and “in off-campus Cornell facilities in the Ithaca area”<sup>23</sup>;

86 **Whereas**, Cornell University installed twelve (12) Vengo vending machines in 2017 in locations  
87 such as Robert Purcell Community Center and Appel Commons that possess the capabilities to  
88 dispense items such as Advil and other OTC medications<sup>24</sup>;

89  
90 **Whereas**, Stanford University specifically employs a similar machine made by Vengo Labs that  
91 provides students with twenty-four (24) access to emergency contraception and other sexual  
92 wellness products<sup>25</sup>;

93 **Whereas**, Cornell Health’s pharmacy already sells “Progestin-only emergency contraception  
94 such as *Plan B* [generic], *Plan B One Step*, *Next Choice*, and *Levonorgestrel Tablets*... without a  
95 prescription”<sup>26</sup>;

96 **Whereas**, generic brand Plan B is currently offered at the Cornell Health pharmacy for only \$10  
97 (ten dollars), nearly five (5) times less than the average price of \$40-\$50 for a single-dose pill of  
98 many name brands of Plan B One-Step at local major pharmacies, therefore, the installation of  
99 the medicine in such machines is unlikely to pose significant additional burden to the  
100 institution<sup>27</sup>;

101 **Whereas**, providing readily available over-the-counter medications through vending machines  
102 will ensure that all students have immediate, private, and equitable access to essential healthcare  
103 products regardless of schedules or commitments, reducing barriers to access for students who  
104 face difficulties obtaining such medicines due to factors like limited access to transportation and  
105 store hours, and ensuring that they have the autonomy to control their own healthcare decisions;

106 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly believes  
107 it is necessary for Cornell Health to equitably expand access to over-the-counter non-prescription

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<sup>22</sup><https://rmc.library.cornell.edu/cornell150/exhibition/sexcolor/index.html#:~:text=In%20the%20fall%20of%201871,officially%20voted%20to%20admit%20women>

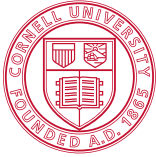
<sup>23</sup> <https://scl.cornell.edu/residential-life/dining/eateries-menus/vending-machines>

<sup>24</sup> <https://cornellsun.com/2017/03/07/partnership-between-vengo-labs-and-the-cornell-store-brings-new-vending-machines-around-campus/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.theverge.com/2019/2/11/18216209/contraception-campus-vending-machines-day-after-pill-plan-b>

<sup>26</sup> <https://health.cornell.edu/resources/health-topics/sexual-health-relationships#:~:text=Available%20without%20a%20prescription%3A,Health%20pharmacy%20without%20a%20prescription>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/morning-after-pill-emergency-contraception/whats-plan-b-morning-after-pill#:~:text=How%20Much%20Does%20Plan%20B,online%20for%20%2420%20%2B%20%245%20shipping>



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108 drugs and emergency contraceptives that support the overall health and wellbeing of all  
109 community members;

110 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell Health should follow the growing movement<sup>28</sup> of accessible  
111 emergency contraceptive and other over-the-counter non-prescription drugs in twenty-four (24)  
112 hour accessible vending machines that include products ranging from pain and fever relief,  
113 stomach illness relief, and other relevant over-the-counter medication like our peer institutions<sup>29</sup>;

114 **Be it further resolved**, the vending machines should be placed in places that are public yet still  
115 discrete enough to protect the user's privacy and priced at rates that closely mirror those of the  
116 in-person Cornell Health pharmacy;

117 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell Health should include relevant accompanying educational  
118 material around seasonal illness health, health promotion, mental health, sexual health (including  
119 but not limited to information on STD prevention, birth control, reproductive health and the  
120 subsequent available resources on reproductive right both inside Cornell Health and around the  
121 Ithaca area) with vending machines to support campus wide health promotion;

122 **Be it further resolved**, the co-signed hope that the Cornell University Assemblies and Shared  
123 Governance system, in accordance with their receptive chartered responsibilities as entrusted by  
124 the Cornell community, Board of Trustees, and University President will be able to stay in an  
125 advisory and community based accountability role to continue to support Cornell Health and the  
126 Cornell Health pharmacy in overseeing this major university policy initiative and supporting the  
127 Cornell community's wellbeing on this issue of health access, health equity, reproductive rights,  
128 and reproductive health;

129 **Be it finally resolved**, that Cornell Health and the Cornell Central Administration recognize the  
130 hard work organizing and advocating for this issue by Planned Parenthood Generation Action  
131 (PPGA) and other student organizations stakeholders through this pilot program, ensuring that  
132 emergency contraceptive and other reproductive rights educational material are always included;

133 *Respectfully Submitted,*

134 Kate Carter-Cram  
135 President

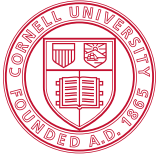
136 Michelle Heeney  
137 Vice President of Communications

138 Josh Washington  
139 Executive Vice President

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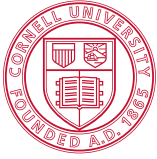
<sup>28</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2022-09-01/emergency-contraception-is-coming-to-us-vending-machines>

<sup>29</sup> Appendix B – Peer Institution Vending Machine Offerings



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- 140 Planned Parenthood Generation Action at Cornell
- 141 Cornell Women's Health Initiative
- 142 The Advocacy Project
- 143 Student Organ Donation Advocates
- 144 People's Organized Collective (POCC)
- 145 The Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition
- 146 Cornell Progressives
- 147 Pelvic Pain Association at Cornell



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148 Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

149 Q1 – I am a ...

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Cornell undergraduate student	87.76% 624
2	Cornell graduate and/or professional student	3.80% 27
3	Cornell staff member	1.13% 8
4	Cornell faculty member	0.42% 3
5	non-Cornell Ithaca resident	1.41% 10
6	Other	5.49% 39

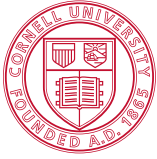
150 711

151 Q2 - Have you ever accessed emergency contraception for yourself or another person?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	53.34% 319
2	No	46.66% 279

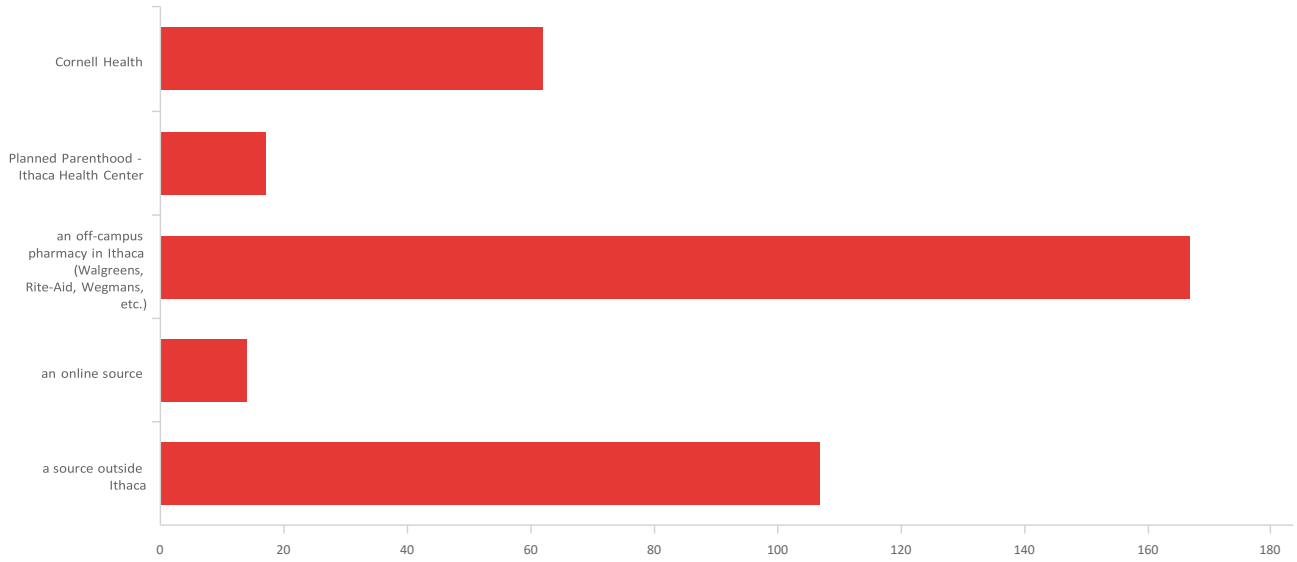
152 598

153 Q3 – [omitted for relevance]

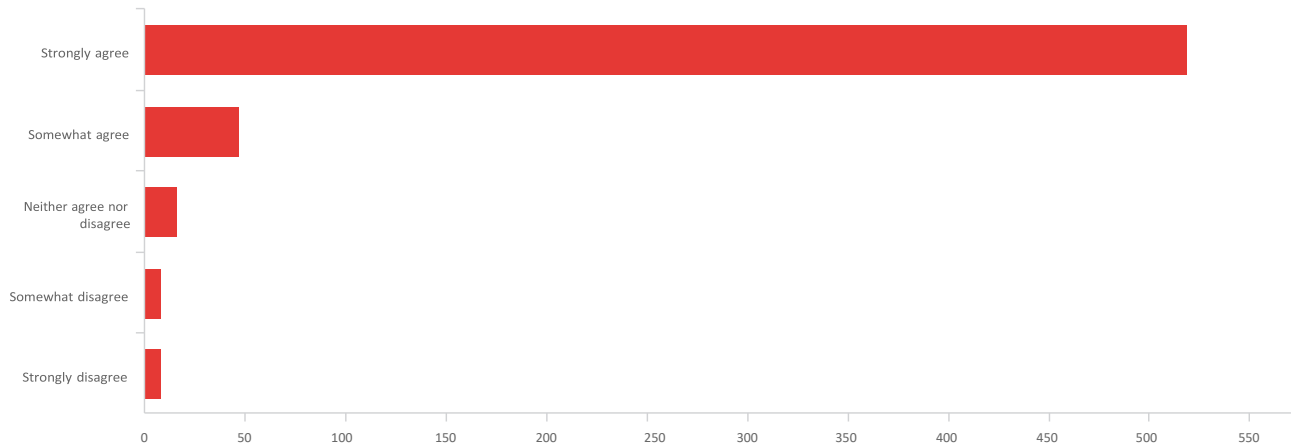


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154 Q4 - I accessed emergency contraception, for myself or someone else, at ...

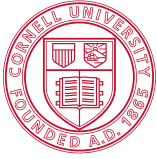


155 Q5 - I would consider accessing emergency contraception for myself or another person in the future.  
156



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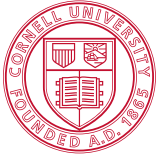


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158 Q6 - How comfortable would you feel accessing emergency contraception, for yourself or someone else,  
159 from a campus vending machine operated by Cornell Health?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Very comfortable	66.48% 357
2	Somewhat comfortable	23.84% 128
3	Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable	2.42% 13
4	Somewhat uncomfortable	3.91% 21
5	Very uncomfortable	3.35% 18
		537

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161 Appendix B – Peer Institution Vending Machine Offerings

<b>Medication:</b>	<b>Purdue University</b>	<b>Johns Hopkins University</b>	<b>University of California, Davis</b>	<b>Dartmouth College</b>	<b>George Washington University</b>
<b>Contraceptives/Sexual Wellness:</b>					
<b>Emergency Contraceptive (Plan B)</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
Condoms	x	x	x	x	
Pregnancy Tests	x	x	x	x	
Tampons		x	x	x	x
<b>Pain/Fever:</b>					
Ibuprofen (Advil)	x	x	x	x	x
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	x	x	x	x	x
Naproxen (Aleve)		x		x	
<b>Allergy/Cold/Cough/Flu:</b>					
Loratadine (Claritin)	x	x	x	x	
Banophen (Benadryl)	x	x		x	
Oxymetazoline (Afrin)		x		x	
Cough Drops	x			x	
<b>Stomach Symptoms:</b>					
Bismuth Subsalicylate (Pepto-Bismol)	x	x		x	
Calcium Carbonate (TUMS)	x	x		x	
Dimenhydrinate (Dramamine)	x	x			
<b>Others:</b>					
Eye Drops (Visine)	x			x	
Ear Drops				x	
Bacitracin Zinc (Neosporin)		x			
Melatonin		x			
Terbinafine (Athlete's Foot Cream)		x			
Hydrocortisone Cream	x	x		x	

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